# **FWP Fishing Closure Considerations Flow Chart**

For Cold Water Streams in Summer Low Flow Conditions

1. Stream has a site-specific low flow/drought response plan with FWP approved fishery management recommendations (e.g. Big Hole, Jefferson, Blackfoot).

2. Classified as "Critical Salmonid Stream". Stream supports important recreational fishery and/or species of special concern.

## Condition:

Summer flows and/or temperature are expected to create excessively stressful conditions for fish. Stream receives sufficient pressure that angling will add an unacceptable lethal threat to adult fish in drought conditions.

### Action - Watch

Action:

- Included in FWP drought reporting.
- Active FWP temperature and flow monitoring, and low flow response planning if applicable.

Implement management plan.

## Condition:

- Thresholds for flow and/or temperatures are reached.
  Angling pressure continues to be significant and detrimental to fish health.
  - Flow threshold = 95% monthly exceedence level.
  - Temperature threshold = maximum daily water temperature equals toe exceeds 73 degrees F (23 degrees C) for three consecutive days.

#### and/or

- In critical bull trout spawning and rearing streams, maximum daily temperature equals or exceeds 60°F (15°C) for three consecutive days. Fish are concentrating and vulnerable in cold water refuges. Action - Mandatory Closure: Applicable when priority streams reach flow or temperature thresholds, or when voluntary restrictions are ineffective or inadequate. Post restrictions at access points and distribute to shopes, outfitters, etc. Monitor effects of restriction sat least three times weekly.

- <u>Time of Day Closure</u> prohibits angling between the hours of 2 PM and 12:00 AM (Midnight).
- <u>Full Closure</u> prohibits all angling. Necessary to protect fishery resource.
- Broader application of closures may be necessary to address overcrowding on open waters in extreme drought conditions.
  Appropriate levels of response to this issue will be based on further discussion.

# **Lifting of Summer Closures:**

Closures will be lifted on September 15 unless an earlier/ later date is designated by the FWP Commission for specific water. Closure may be lifted when reopening criteria are met and by Commission approval.